

LATENT PRINT EXAMINER

DEFINITION

To perform a variety of complex tasks in the identification, classification, automation and comparison of latent prints in connection with the investigation of crimes; prepare presentation of evidence for court and serve as an expert on all phases of latent print identification; and to perform other related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from the Crime Lab Manager.

Exercises technical and functional guidance over assigned staff.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS – Functions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Analyze, compare, evaluate and verify (ACE-V method) latent fingerprints using all three levels of identification; classify fingerprints; compare latent to inked prints; evaluate latent prints to determine integrity and evidentiary value; make a positive or a negative identification, or determine a print is of no value for comparison purposes; maintain logs and records of examinations.

Evaluate all latent prints cards submitted and enter latent prints into an automated fingerprint identification system (“AFIS”); compare known prints of suspects with latent prints to establish positive, negative and inconclusive results; compare latent friction ridge structure to known individuals to determine identity.

Serve as an expert witness in court on all phases of latent print processing and identification; prepare photographs and other materials for evidence demonstrations in the courts.

Perform in-house photography using a 35mm, digital and MP-4 copy camera equipment.

Process submitted evidence for latent prints and assist on occasion with crime scene call-outs where assistance is needed with latent print evidence gathering and processing

Respond when called upon to assist with the documentation, collection and preservation of latent print evidence at the major crimes and autopsies.

Locate and develop latent prints on a wide variety of materials and surfaces by using sequential processing including physical, chemical, digital and optical or any combination of techniques appropriate to the substance being examined.

Recover and preserve developed latent prints using appropriate physical, optical, or electronic techniques and equipment, including infrared, ultraviolet, laser and other special forensic photographic procedures as well as digital camera and computer scanning devices.

Prepare, enter, and compare latent prints in the automated California Identification System (CAL-ID), Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (I-AFIS) and related systems.

Prepare latent prints for court and testify as an expert witness on all phase of latent print.

Take major case inked print exemplars on suspects, victims and witnesses.

Write comprehensive reports on latent print examination results.

Performs related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Methods and techniques used in latent print identification.

Commonly used finger print classification system.

Rules and procedures of providing testimony in court.

Principles and practices of evidence collection.

Evidence collection techniques.

Crime scene investigation procedures.

Applicable laws, codes, ordinances and regulations.

English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Computer and digital imaging equipment and software applications related to assignment.

Chain of custody of evidence.

Ability to:

Analyze, compare, evaluate and verify (ACE-V method) latent fingerprints.

Apply laboratory safety rules and procedures.

Mix and use fingerprint chemicals.

Teach and assist forensic and police staff.

Prepare accurate written reports and maintain accurate legible logs and records.

Testify in a court setting as an expert witness.

Operate latent print equipment.

Prepare latent print demonstration for court evidence.

Classify fingerprints.

Maintain evidence and latent print logs and records.

Operate computer equipment and software applications related to assignment.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Work with various cultural and ethnic groups in a tactful and effective manner.

Experience and Training

Any combination of education and/or experience and training that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience:

Three years of responsible technical experience in the classification, identification, and comparison of latent fingerprints.

Training:

Equivalent to an Associate's degree from an accredited college with major course work in criminal justice, evidence technology or a related field.

License or Certificate

Possession of a valid California driver's license.

Possession of a letter or court transcript of court acceptance as a qualified expert in latent print identification.

Possession of an International Association of Identification (IAI) Certified Latent Print Examiner or other recognized professional organization certificate is highly desirable.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

On an intermittent basis, sit at desk for long periods of time; intermittently walk, stand, bend, squat, twist and reach while examining latent print; perform simple grasping and fine manipulation while using related tools and equipment (to include microscope); use telephone and use a keyboard to communicate through written means, review information and enter/retrieve data; see and read characters on computer screen; and lift 25 lbs of weight.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Primary work is performed indoors in a carpeted and air-conditioned office or environment with fluorescent lighting and moderate noise level. Some movement is required from office to office and there is exposure to the external environment when going to outlying offices and storage areas. Occasional exposure to hazardous items such as firearms, drugs, body fluids, and chemical while performing duties related to latent print examination. Work is frequently disrupted by the need to respond to in-person and telephone inquiries.

5/04